

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Industrial Information  
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1. Czechoslovak Oilfields

Forty new oil wells were opened in the fields around Breclav (S75) during 1947 and 1948. An additional 14 wells have been started between Bilovice and Moravsky Zizkov (S76), whence oil is being pumped to the Podivin (S66) railway station. According to one report, the oil produced by these fields is not being hauled away to Russia, but is left for Czech domestic consumption. Most of the crude oil is brought to Bratislava for processing.

2. Fulfillment of the Five Year Plan

It is expected that, at the present rate of progress, the Czech Five Year Plan will be more or less fulfilled within the allotted time. This will be accomplished, however, only at the expense of existing stockpiles, which, upon the completion of the plan, will be completely exhausted. Plants for which raw materials can no longer be obtained are being cannibalized, and their machinery is shipped to the sites of new plants which are to be constructed under the provisions of the Plan. In the first quarter of 1949, it was announced that the Plan quota had been fulfilled to the extent of 114 per cent.

3. Miscellaneous War Plants

- The airplane motor plant at Hodkovice, near Liberec (G16), is being put into working order. It has not been producing since the departure of the Germans.
- The Oppelt foundry of Liberec casts airplane and tank motor blocks according to Avia and Skoda patterns. The Avia blocks are sent to Prague, and the Skoda ones are sent to the Skoda automobile works at Mlada Boleslav.
- One of the plants of the Oppelt foundry at Liberec is also casting the projectile parts of 80-mm. artillery shells. Two hundred men working in two shifts are employed at the plant, but the shortage of steel will shortly force a reduction to one shift.

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- d. The Chrastava works at Liberec are currently engaged in the manufacturing of rifles and automatic rifles.
- e. A new factory belonging to the Vsetin armaments combine is being built in the Kunovice-Ostravska Nova Ves region near the Slovak border of Moravia.
- f. The Plzeň Skoda works are producing a new type of armor plating which is being shipped to the USSR. Since this plating does not fit any model of tank thus far known to the Skoda people, it is assumed that a new type of armored vehicle has been developed in Russia.
- g. Up to the end of April, 13,000 tons of steel were produced during 1949 by the mills of the Ostrava region. During the same period, 9,000 tons of rolled steel products were manufactured for Czechoslovak industry.
- h. A courier from Czechoslovakia reports that some sort of "death ray" apparatus is being manufactured in a former cotton mill at Nitra(T62).

Czechoslovak State Railways Rolling Stock

As of the middle of May 1949, the Czechoslovak State Railways possessed 8,300 passenger cars, 21,800 boxcars, 48,000 open cars, and 3,209 locomotives (728 of which were based in Slovakia).

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